Policy Matters: Rescue of Individuals

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Executive Office of the President

Washington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Wednesday, February 9, 1944.

RELEASE NO. 3

The War Refugee Board announced today that it is soliciting the written suggestions of all interested private agencies as to the measures that they believe the Board can take to rescue and otherwise bring relief to Jews and other victims of enemy persecution.

The Board also asked that private agencies advise it promptly of such measures as they are equipped to take to lend assistance in its work. In this connection, the Board has advised the private agencies concerned that it will have to confine itself to projects involving the relief or rescue of groups of persons. The Board stated that it will not be able to deal with proposals limited to seeking out and rescuing any individual.

In writing to the private organizations concerned with the problem, the Board stated that it was not unmindful of the fact that private agencies have for some time been seeking means to effect the relief and rescue of Jews and other minority groups threatened with extermination by the enemy. A number of victims of enemy persecution have been rescued or brought relief through the efforts of such private agencies.

It was stated at the Board's offices today that although it was believed that all interested private agencies had been solicited, it was possible that a few were omitted by inadvertence. A Board spokesman stated that any interested private organization that does not receive, within the next few days, a letter from the Board soliciting its views and cooperation, should communicate with the Board promptly.